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## (54) IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO CARTONS

(71) We, ALLIANCE BOX COMPANY LIMITED, a British Company of P.O. Box 48, Orford Lane, Warrington, Lancashire WA2 7AD, do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to cartons provided with carrying handles.

Cardboard cartons and the like are widely used for the packaging of goods which are intended to be carried by a purchaser. Such packages, however, if bulky suffer from the disadvantages of being cumbersome and difficult to manage.

It is therefore an object of the present invention to obviate or mitigate the above-mentioned disadvantages.

According to the present invention there is provided a carton provided with a handle assembly, the carton having an aperture in one face thereof and the handle assembly comprising a plate which locates within the carton and which is of larger size than, and registers with, the aperture, and a flexible strip having a portion thereof slidably mounted on the plate so that the strip can lie flat in the aperture or can be arched away from the aperture so as to stand proud of the carton to provide a carrying handle therefor, there being means provided for retaining said plate in the region of the aperture.

Preferably the handle is located at a position which corresponds to a position of balance of the carton, when filled, so as to facilitate carrying.

An embodiment of the invention will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a carton according to the present invention;

Fig. 2 is an exploded view of the carton shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary view of a handle for the carton shown in Figs. 1 and 2; and

Fig. 4 is a perspective view of the underside of the handle shown in Fig. 3.

The carton 1 is made of stout cardboard and is of generally rectangular shape. On one longitudinal narrow face 2, there is a longitudinal slot 3.

A handle assembly 4 for the carton 1 comprises a strip 5 of, for example, plastics material and is provided on a rectangular plate 6 of, for example, hardboard. The plate 6 is of dimensions greater than those of the slot 3 and has two similar spaced parallel slots 7 of length slightly greater than the width of the strip 5 which is threaded one end through each slot, so that a strip of sufficient length to be gripped by a hand is presented on one face 8 of the plate 6. Towards each of its ends, the strip 5 has slots 9 and is fixed on the reverse side 10 of the plate 6 by means of rivets 11 passing therethrough, there being a flexible washer 12 provided between the strip and the end of the rivet. This construction allows the strip 5 either to be laid flat against the plate 6 or to be arched (as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 1) on the plate so that a hand may be located between the plate 6 and the strip 5.

This handle assembly 4, comprising the strip 5 and the plate 6, is positioned within the carton 1 beneath the aperture or slot 3 so that the strip 5 may be arched away from the plate and stand proud of the face 2. The plate 6 is held in position in the carton 1 by means of a cardboard sleeve 13 which is a close sliding fit within the carton. The slot 3 on the carton 1 is of substantially equal width to the strip 5 and has arcuate cut-away portions 14 in the region of its centre to enable the strip 5 to be gripped by fingers for raising it proud of the carton 1.

The plate 6 may also have a circular aperture (not shown) beneath the centre of the strip 5, again to facilitate raising of the strip 5 proud of the carton 1.

## WHAT WE CLAIM IS—

1. A carton provided with a handle assembly, the carton having an aperture in

one face thereof and the handle assembly comprising a plate which locates within the carton and which is of larger size than, and registers with, the aperture, and a flexible strip having a portion thereof slidably mounted on the plate so that the strip can lie flat in the aperture or can be arched away from the aperture so as to stand proud of the carton to provide a carrying handle therefor, there being means provided for retaining said plate in the region of the aperture.

2. A carton as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the slidable mounting of the strip is provided proximate each end of the strip.

3. A carton as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the plate has two spaced parallel slots and each end of the strip passes through one of said slots and is slidably mounted to the plate on the face opposite that which registers with the aperture.

4. A carton as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 3 wherein the retaining means for the plate is a sleeve fitted within the carton, the plate being retained between the carton and the sleeve.

5. A carton as claimed in any one of the preceding Claims wherein the handle is located at a position which corresponds to a position of balance of the carton, when filled, so as to facilitate carrying.

6. A carton substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION

1 SHEET

This drawing is a reproduction of  
the Original on a reduced scale

